

Volume 7 Issue 9a (Revised)

September 2019

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Meeting Minutes

Majors Field ARC Meeting Minutes 8/8/2019

• Meeting was called to order @ 1145

Officer Reports

- Meeting minutes for July meeting are in the latest edition of "Airwaves".
- Error in notes from previous month TX QSO Party dates were incorrect.

Subcommittee Reports

• Remote HF effort is to be paused for effort to poll club members on club direction.

Upcoming Events

- Brief list of upcoming hamfests and area meetings.
- 9/21 "Cotton Patch" event in Greenville.

Old Business

- Dwight D. Eisenhower SES. Decision is cancelled due to storm damage at museum site.
- TX QSO party event planned for September 13-14 at Lake Bob Sandlin.

New Business

- New tech licensing class scheduled for November 8-9 at Greenville hospital.
- Member survey to be conducted.

Presentations

N/A.

Attendees

Meeting adjourned @ 1215.



Those in attendance were:

Scott Davis - K5PS
Mike Garcia - K5FMG
Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
Curt King - KI5DZL
Robby Padon - WB5WNF
Victor Paul - WB0TEV

David Rogers - KG5KPU Chris Rutz - K5RTZ Larry Smith - K5XB John Watters - KJ4RVT

Brian Wilson - KG5KPN

Written by Secretary Scott Davis – K5PS

MFARC Bank Statement for August

Beginning balance: \$1,928.49

NO ACCOUNT ACTIVITY THIS MONTH

New balance: \$1,928.49

Provided by Treasurer John Nelson Jr – W7JOY

President's Letter

On the doorstep of the last quarter of 2019. Time to start thinking about 2020...

Meetings/Events

Thursday we'll be discussing next month's <u>Texas QSO Party</u>. David has some information on that in his letter in this edition of the newsletter. I highly encourage you to come out to <u>Lake Bob Sandlin</u> to camp out, cook out, fish, and operate. Like I told you last month, still true now, lots of folks around the state will be excited at the activation of Titus County and it seems this is going to be very popular with the participants. A friend of mine in Amarillo tells me last year he was continuously on 20m in Randall county working a pile up with folks outside Texas participating. Titus is apparently difficult to log during the party. That could translate to a lot of activity for us. Seriously, if you were ever wonder what it is like to be working a pile up, this may be your chance. The QSO party is September 14-15. We are planning this as a family outing on the lake as well as radio operating. Bring the family.

The <u>Cotton Patch Challenge</u> bike race is in a couple of weeks. We always help out with that. Last week they still needed several operators with hand-helds and maybe a couple of fixed/portables. We'll talk this out at the meeting. If you've never done this event, consider trying it. Some pretty interesting things usually happen. Most need radio communication to help the organizers and participants.

We didn't get the membership poll finished yet but we'll make a stab at getting out by meeting time. Even if we miss that deadline, we'll put it out on the social media sites. I hope you'll take the time to respond. The poll will explore what activities you'd like to do, and what you want out of your MFARC membership. We absolutely want to do whatever the members want. It seems a lot of the time we just

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do what David or I want to. Not because we're trying to monopolize things, but rather we're just not hearing from you. Maybe you like what we're planning...maybe not. Let us know one way or another.

Again, not too early to start thinking about Winter Field Day. Once again Rains County will ask us to help man their EOC for this event.

Make a 5 or 10-minute talk about what's going on in your part of the hobby and show it off at the meeting. We'd love to hear what's up. Remember you get an extra ticket for the end of year drawing when you present a program at a regular monthly meeting.

Club Projects

Still harping on the club projects... We were considering obtaining an <u>IC-7300</u> to set up remote control HF operations from the MSTF trailer. And we may do that yet, but I think we will defer that until after the member survey.

Elmering/mentoring: This is a very worthy effort and I hope every active member will take part. Remember, the goal is to make sure that new hams that take our licensing study/test sessions and pass the test, get on the air and at least make one if not more QSO's as quickly as possible after his or her call sign is issued. We might not be able to hold their long-term interest, but we need to make sure they have the chance to enjoy what they have earned. We will continue to build a list of volunteer Elmers.

We have a Technician licensing opportunity coming up in November. We'll need instructors and VE's for that effort.

ARRL

Last month I told you a friend of mine, K5AB, was going to run for ARRL West Gulf Division Director. The League preemptively (he had not applied to be on the ballot yet) sent him a notice disqualifying him from being on the ballot. I could say plenty. I'll write nothing.

In spite of all that, if you join or renew your ARRL membership through MFARC, MFARC gets a "cut".

See you at the meeting Thursday. Bring a friend, and feel free to bring your lunch. Remember we are in Lawson CR upstairs in Building 111 now.73,

Larry K5XB

MFARC President

Written by President Larry Smith – K5XB

Missives and Memorandum from the VP's Cluttered Desk...

Two key notes for the upcoming weekend: the <u>Texas QSO Party</u> is Saturday and Sunday; AND, <u>MFARC</u> has rented shelters (#64 and 65, Moccasin Track area) at <u>Lake Bob Sandlin</u> (Near the towns of Mt. Pleasant and Pittsburgh, East of Greenville, off of I-30). Aside from the usual "radio stuff," there will be swimming, fishing, kayaking (rentals available thru the campground), and all kinds of food. Even if you can't make it out to the lake, you can still get on the air and take part in the annual Texas QSL Party. For more information about the event, go to http://www.txqp.net/. For more information about Lake Bob

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Sandlin, go to https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lake-bob-sandlin . The "talk in" frequency will be announced later this week; check FaceBook and Groups I/O for details.

For those who believe the naysayers when they nayingly say, "the bands are dead," I say "don't believe them." The bands may be on life support, but they are not dead. Just this past week, I worked contacts on 40m, 20m, and 17m—all within a 2-hour time span. During the Hiram Percy Maxim/ARRL celebration, I casually made 25 contacts on 40m within 30 minutes—during the day. So, don't be discouraged; turn on, tune in, and get on the air.

Our 444.625 repeater is up and running both D-Star and Fusion. I have recently discovered both, and find them to be very enjoyable. While D-Star can require some extra programming to make it work properly (unless you have a newer Icom radio, which will automatically link to the reflector online via our repeater), the Yaesu Fusion system is easy to get up and running. The club is currently looking into having a seminar for those interested in exploring the new digital modes on Vhf/Uhf.

I am looking forward to seeing as many people as possible at the meeting this Thursday; 11:45 in the Lawson Conference room, top floor of building 111,

David Rogers

KG5KPU

Written by Vice-President David Rogers – KG5KPU

MFARC Club Meeting – Conference Room Change

Please take note of the new conference room the club is using for the rest of the year. We are now meeting in Building 111 – second floor at the Lawson Conference Room. Lawson is located around the corner from the Glass Conference Room, and right next to the Elevators. You can still bring your lunch. Hope to see you all there!

Written by Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

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High Freq's on the High Seas



KK5MR operates HF on the Carnival Cruise Ship Vista

Maritime amateur radio is rewarding but requires planning and the permission of the ship's captain.

OVERVIEW AND PREPARATION:

After obtaining an IARP (International Amateur Radio Permit, for operating on a Panamanian-flagged ship), submitting a written request to the ship's captain and getting his approval, I was able to operate HF on the Carnival Cruise Ship, Vista.

My suitcase contained a padded laptop case. Within that was a 10 watt transceiver (ICOM 703+), a ½-watt WSPR transmitter (QRP Labs Ultra S3) and a 10-foot high vertical wire antenna tuned for 20m (it was center-loaded with two counterpoise lines, 20 foot length each). For power, I used a 12-volt battery (a rechargeable 8ampere-hour item that I pulled out of a UPS). It made a good source of power when operating independent of the ship's power.

The cruise route is known as the "Western Caribbean" with the following ports-of-call: Roatan Island (claimed by Honduras), Belize City (the favorite city of Victor Paul, WB0TEV) and Cozumel (an island claimed by Mexico).

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The ship was at-sea (international waters) for three days between the days docked at the ports-of-call. I didn't make the effort to work reciprocal licensing with those countries, since I expected to be busy with family during the 3 days in port. At each port-of-call, by 7pm we were back in international waters making our way to the next destination.



Ports of Call for the Western Caribbean Cruise

WSPR SETUP AND OPERATION:

Our stateroom had a balcony, so the GPS receiver and WSPR transmitter were placed out on the balcony chair. The antenna hung from a strong magnetic hook attached to the metal overhang of the balcony. It was quick and easy but it was all contained on my balcony area. There was nothing hanging below deck to cause concern or any unsightly appearance. A small afternoon shower could sometimes pop up with very little warning, so I kept the transmitter contained within a plastic ziplock. The WSPR transmitter was kept running most of the time at sea, except for the few hours that I needed the antenna for SSB work.

WSPR reception worldwide is logged to an internet server, so I didn't see results until I got back home and was quite surprised to see stations that heard my ½-watt transmission: Iceland, England, Germany, Austria and Brazil. I expected only North American stations.

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Receiving Stations that heard KK5MR maritime via WSPR

SSB OPERATIONS:

For better RF 'visibility' I decided to locate the antenna & ICOM transceiver to the 7th floor forward deck (outside). This would afford me greater than 240+ degree view at the front of the ship. Above me, the 8th floor deck, has a steel-framed catwalk around the bridge. So from the 7th floor, I used the catwalk above as a top anchor point for the wire antenna. Using a length of twine, the vertical was hoisted up to the catwalk above. The conditions on 20m wasn't stellar... and given where we were on the 11-year sunspot cycle, I didn't expect much. I could hear some stateside stations on 20m commenting about the poor propagation conditions and signal fading. In prior cruises around 2014, I had SSB chats with guys in England, Spain and other European countries using the same setup that I had with me on this 2019 cruise. This summer, I could only manage SSB with guys in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Tennessee. Signal fading was very pronounced on 14MHz. and so I didn't spend much time trying to fight for anything more. All SSB contacts were made between noon – 3pm local time, taking advantage of the sun-effect to the north. Still, it was a fun experience, especially the WSPR results.

MARITIME OPERATIONS - HOW TO GO ABOUT GETTING APPROVAL (CARIBBEAN SEA):

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I've read about several incidents where a ham's request to the captain was met with a "No". On one Carnival cruise that I was on, the captain said "No", but on two other Carnival cruises the captain said "Yes". I wondered if at one point maybe they had security concerns or other reasons to say no.

A few times I've seen an internet offering where a "ham cruise" was being organized. Most likely, an amateur radio operator connected with a travel office might be working arrangements with the cruise line for amateur radio onboard. For you to reserve a spot, you likely submit your FCC license and other paperwork. A few radios and portable antennas are normally offered by someone coordinating this venture, with an option for you to bring your own low-powered transceiver. There are also a limited number of cabins allocated to this kind of 'group'.

If you find yourself being drawn into a cruise when and where the <u>family</u> wants to go, it doesn't hurt to explore amateur radio opportunities on your own. I find myself a bit bored when out at sea... since I'm not into the casino activities. (I tend to lose money just fine without their help.) HF is about the only dependable means of radio communications out at sea, since VHF/UHF is line-of-sight. Here are a few things you need to do if you want to evaluate your chances to operate maritime:

- 1) Check the cruise ship's FAQ on the internet for a list of things to leave at home. Carnival Cruise lines specifically notes that scanners are not allowed onboard, however amateur radio equipment <u>is</u> allowed, at least when I made my plans in July 2019. The FAQ is periodically updated so be sure to check it just before you go. Now, just because Carnival allows amateur radio gear onboard does not imply the authority for you to transmit.
- 2) The <u>www.arrl.org</u> website provides a great resource for any kind of international operations, and maritime is a special category all to itself. A good read on all things maritime is here: http://www.arrl.org/maritime-mobile-operation-in-international-waters

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Information for US Amateurs Traveling Abroad

(updated February 2019)



US amateurs may operate abroad in many foreign countries, if certain requirements, under one of the following authorizations.

NOTE: Regardless of which reciprocal authority you are utilizing, US licensees are strongly encouraged to contact the national Telecom authority or IARU Member society of the county they are visiting to ensure they have full and complete information on operating privileges as well as an incidental requirements that may be necessary in order to operate legally

Reciprocal Operating Agreements between the US and a foreign country names in list below. If such an agreement exists, operation in that country is permissible. Keep in mind that reciprocity does not necessarily mean the US Amateur can simply go and operate. In some cases, the US amateur needs to make applications or obtain a permit. The qualified US Amateur must carry your official FCC-issued license (not a reference copy). Countries that share a Reciprocal agreement with the United States: Antigua/Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Canada¹, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark (including Greenland), Dominican Republic, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, France³, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Grenada, Guatemaia, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Liberia, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Granadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Island, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thalland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Kingdom³, Uruguay and Venezuela.

CEPT Radio Amateur License Recommendation T/R 61-01 allows US Amateur Extra and US Advanced class licensees to operate in European Union countries and their dependencies listed below under CEPT T/R 61-01. The qualified US Amateur must carry a copy of the FCC CEPT Public Notice DA 16-1048 (dated September 16, 2016), your US passport and your official FCC-issued license (not a reference copy).

Countries participating in CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark⁴, Estonia, Finland⁷, France⁹, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway⁸, Poland, Portugal⁹, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom⁶.

ECC Recommendation (05)06 allows US General Class licensees to operate under the CEPT Novice Radio Amateur License in the countries listed below. Qualified US General class operators must carry a copy of the FCC CEPT Public Notice DA 16-1048 (dated September 16, 2016), your US passport and your official FCC-issued license (not a reference copy).

CEPT countries participating in ECC Recommendation (05)06: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark⁴, Finland⁷, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal⁵, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Switzerland.

International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) allows US Amateurs traveling to certain Central or South American countries (listed below) to operate if the hold an IARP permit, which in the US may be obtained through the ARRL VEC.

Countries that participate with the United States: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada¹, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

US Amateurs traveling abroad should always verify the specific operating privileges and frequencies they may use in each country from which they will operate before traveling, as privileges in many cases may be different from their US authorized privileges. When operating abroad, you must identify your transmissions by giving the foreign call district in which you are traveling followed by your US call (e.g. "This is IZ/N1ND).

- 1— An automatic reciprocal agreement exists between the US and Canada, so there is no need to apply for a permit. Simply sign your US call followed by a slant bar and the Canadian prefix and /number identifier for the province or territory in which you are operating.
- ² Including French Guiana, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Ile Amsterdam, Ile Saint-Paul, Iles Crozet, Iles Kerguelen, Martinique, New Caledonia, Reunion, St. Pierre and Miquelon, and Wallis and Futuna Islands.
- ³ Including Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands (Including Guernsey and Jersey) Falkland Islands (Including South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands), Great Britain, Gibraitar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Northern Ireland, St. Helena (Including Ascension Island, Gough Island, Tristan Da Cunha Island), and the Turks & Caicos Islands.
- 4 Participating for Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands.
- 5 Participating for France, Corsica, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, St. Bartholomew, St. Pierre and Miquelon, St. Martin, Reunion and its Dependencies, Mayotte, French Antarctica, French Polynesia & Clipperton, New Caledonia, and Wallis & Futuna.
- s Participating for Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Jersey, Scotland, Guernsey and Wales.
- 7 Participating for Finland and Aland Islands.
- * Participating for Norway and Svalbard.
- ⁹ Participating for Portugal, Azores and Madeira.

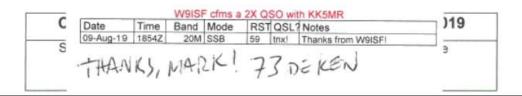




The 2019 Indiana State Fair Just Got a Whole Lot More Super! Super Heroes Take Over the Fair August 2-18

The Fair theme this year, HEROES IN THE HEARTLAND presented by Indiana Donor Network, salutes Hoosier farmers, first responders, educators, members of the Armed Forces and many others who keep us safe and make us proud. And now, fair goers can visit a NEW experience, the Super City: Where Heroes Unite! exhibit, open daily, to hang out with their favorite Super Heroes.

(Photos and graphics courtesy of Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center. Go to http://indianastatefair.com for more information.)



Written by Mark Rice - KK5MR



Department of Defense Message Prompts Listeners to Take WWV/WWVH Survey

Through Saturday, August 24, WWV and WWVH will transmit a US Department of Defense (DOD) message in conjunction with the COMEX 19-3 interoperability exercise in Tennessee. The broadcast also urges listeners to complete a survey on WWV/WWVH listenership and listening habits. The messages are broadcast on WWV at 10 minutes past the hour and on WWVH at 50 minutes past the hour. WWV and WWVH transmit on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 MHz.

In addition to asking for the name, email address, and location of those completing the "WWV/WWVH Reception Report," the survey seeks information on which station (i.e., WWV or WWVH) was heard, the frequency, the transmitted audio quality, whether the information was relevant or useful, how often the respondent monitors WWV/WWVH broadcasts, whether the respondent uses a clock or other device that synchronizes with the low-frequency (60 kHz) WWVB time transmissions, and any other information the respondent would consider useful to hear on WWV/WWVH broadcasts.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) — part of the US Department of Commerce — is using the information gathered to determine "how often their stations are monitored and how the various timing signals and messages are used by the listeners," Chief of US Army MARS Paul English, WD8DBY, said on the US Army MARS Facebook page. "As the saying goes, 'every vote counts,' and your input to this survey is being used to help demonstrate the importance of these stations." Listeners may file multiple reception reports, and anyone may complete the survey.

Earlier this year, the Defense Department began making use of the provisional time slots on WWV and WWVH to announce upcoming HF military communication exercises and to explain how the Amateur Radio community can become involved in them. Use of the time slots has corresponded with Department of Defense communication exercises (COMEX); COMEX 19-3 takes place this month. The announcements will resume during COMEX 19-4 in October.

Following a proof of concept this year, DOD anticipates making use of the WWV/WWVH broadcast time slot full time, all year.

Concern arose in 2018 after WWV and WWVH were included on a list of proposed cuts in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2019 budget request for NIST.

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MFARC Beneficiary to a Sizeable Book Donation

I received a call from John McFadden – K5TIP who was doing a little spring cleaning in the family room. His lovely wife, Liz – K5LIZ, was anticipating the extra space by prompting John to removing some of the older books from their home. Fortunately for us, John had chosen us to receive a large box of books from his collection.

The books range from ARRL Handbooks to antenna design books. There are also books for DX operation, and many project work-bench books, like the Hints and Kinks for Amateur Radio, produced by the ARRL.

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There was also a second box of books donated to the club by Steve Barrett, formerly N5ETB (exp). Some of his engineering books are jewels, such as *Reference Data for Radio Engineers*, by ITT. Thank you Steve!

The donations will be added to the club library collection and is available for members to check them out. Members can check a book out for a "reasonable" amount of time, provided they are returned. The librarian keeps a running list of what is checked out. The library also contains club banners, posters, and other resources for the club as well.

If you are interested in checking out any of the books or resources from the club library, contact Michael Ketchum – K5MDK at X7-4646 or editor@w5nni.net. Look to next month's AIRWAVES for a listing of the newly available books in the club library.

Written by Editor Michael Ketchum – K5MDK

Calendar

| Sep 12 | Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am. |
|-----------|--|
| Sep 14 | Rains ARA Meeting at 9:00am at Rains EOC, 200 Industrial Blvd, Emory. |
| Sep 14-16 | ARRL September VHF Contest http://www.arrl.org/september-vh |
| Sep 17 | Rockwall ARC Meeting at 7:00pm at Soulman's BBQ in Rockwall. |
| Sep 19 | Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Meeting – Hunt Regional Hospital 7:00pm |
| Sep 21-22 | ARRL 10 GHz & Up - Round 2 |
| Sep 21-22 | ARRL EME - 2.3 GHz & Up |
| Sep 28-30 | TX QSO Party, http://www.txqp.net/ |
| Oct 5 | HamEXPO Fall 2019, Belton, TX, http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo |
| Oct 10 | Majors Field Amateur Radio Club Meeting – Lawson CR at 11:45am. |
| Oct 19 | STX Hamfest & Elect Expo - Sinton, TX https://southtexashamfest.org |
| Oct 21-25 | ARRL School Club Roundup |
| Oct 25-26 | Texoma Hamarama, Ardmore, OK http://hamarama.org/ |
| Nov 02 | Parker County Hamfest & Emergency Preparedness Expo - Springtown, TX mailto:kg5atd@gmail.com |

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REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Daily DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 - PL 110.9Hz

Daily DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 8:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz

Daily DFW CW Traffic Net (NTS) at 7:00pm and at 10pm on 3541 KHz http://www.k6jt.com

Mons. Rains/Hopkins Co combined NET at 7:30pm 146.92 – PL 88.5Hz

Tues. Rockwall ARC Net at 7:00pm 441.525 + PL141.3

Tues. K5VOM Net at 8:00pm. News Bulletin at 7:30pm, Allstar 49668 - 441.800 (+) - PL 100Hz

Thurs SVARA Net Every Thursday night at 7:00pm on 146.780 MHz (+) PL 114.8Hz

Thurs QRP Fox Hunt http://www.grpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

2nd Wed of each month – ARRL NTX ARES Net 8:30pm local on 3860

Officers

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Contest/Activities: David Rogers – KG5KPU

contest@w5nni.net

Club Repeaters

Club Station: TBD

VHF Repeater: W5NNI/R

147.160 MHz (+) PL 100.0 Hz

UHF Repeater: W5NNI/R DMR

444.625 MHz (+) Rx-SQ PL 151.4 Hz

AirWaves is a production of the Majors Field Amateur Radio Club

We're on the Web! Find us at: http://w5nni.net

Your article submissions are welcomed. Please submit to editor@w5nni.net.